

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /070 W

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O R 031640Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2673

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

1. JAKE LONGAN INFORMED DCM THAT CAL PHILLIPS, OWENS-ILLINOIS EMPLOYEE, HAD RECEIVED SEPARATE MESSAGE FROM KIDNAPPERS THROUGH UNKNOWN MEANS TO WHICH LONGAN HAD NOT BEEN PRIVY. LONGAN GATHERS THAT MESSAGE PROPOSES THAT ORIGINAL COMMUNIQUE AND ATTACHED DOCUMENTS BE PUBLISHED ABROAD, SUGGESTS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO THE BARRIOS AND REITERATES REQUEST OF 500 BOLIVARES FOR VENEZUELAN EMPLOYEES OF O-I. LONGAN WHO WAS HIRED BY O-I AS CONSULTANT AND HAS, IN FACT, BEEN DIRECTING O-I EFFORTS RELATING TO THE KIDNAPPING IS DISTURBED BECAUSE THE NEW COMMUNICATION HAS NOT BEEN SHARED WITH THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES. PHILLIPS LEFT FOR THE U.S. SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THE MESSAGE. LONGAN BELIEVES IT ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT O-I TOLEDO WILL AGREE TO THE NEW REQUESTS. HE HAS DOUBTS CONCERNING THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH TACTICS WITH REGARD TO NIEHOUS' SAFETY, FEARS THAT IT WILL AFFECT HIS OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES AND BELIEVES IT WILL IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON O-I'S FUTURE OPERATIONS IN VENEZUELA. PHILLIPS WAS DUE TO RETURN FROM THE U.S. AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 P.M. LAST NIGHT.

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2. IN ADDITION, TWO NEW DOCUMENTS HAVE SURFACED FROM THE KIDNAPPERS. THE FIRST IS ENTITLED "PRESS BULLETIN." IT JUSTIFIES THE KIDNAPPING ON THE GROUNDS OF THE "EXPLOITATION AND INTERVENTION THE IMPERIALIST ENTERPRISES EXERCISE AGAINST OUR PEOPLE" AND REFERS TO "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE, BRIBERY OF HIGH FUNCTIONARIES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS OF THE PARTIES OF THE BOURGEOISIE..." THE BULLETIN CALLS ON MRS. DONNA NIEHOUS TO HELP BY "AVOIDING COLLABORATIONIST PRACTICES WITH THE ANTI-KIDNAPPING COMMAND AND EXHORTING THE GOVERNMENT TO SET ASIDE ITS PROVOCATIVE POLICY OF REPRESSION." IT REASSURES CONCERNING THE HUMANE TREATMENT NIEHOUS IS RECEIVING, CHIDES O-I FOR NOT REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE GOV FOR PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AND ASKS WHY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED ABROAD. THE DOCUMENT SAYS THAT O-I'S COUNTER-OFFER OF A CONTRIBUTION TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS IS BEING STUDIED AND CLAIMS THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO RESIST POLICE ATTACK AND WILL KILL NIEHOUS UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES IF NECESSARY.

3. THE SECOND DOCUMENTS COVERED BY THE "PRESS BULLETIN" PURPORTS TO BE A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE INTERROGATION PROCESS TO WHICH NIEHOUS IS BEING SUBJECTED. IT IS ADDRESSED TO "PUBLIC OPINION" FROM THE "INTELLIGENCE TEAM OF THE GROUP OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMANDOS." AFTER CITING NIEHOUS' VITAL STATISTICS AND AN APPRAISAL OF HIS INTELLECT, IDEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL CONDITION IT RECOUNTS HIS RESPONSES TO THE KIDNAPPERS QUESTIONS. IT ALSO DETAILS INSTANCES OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, FRAUD AND INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF VENEZUELA AND NIEHOUS' SUPPOSED CONNECTION TO AID WHICH THE DOCUMENT CLAIMS IS LINKED TO THE CIA. THE REPORT CITES FROM DOCUMENTS IN NIEHOUS' POSSESSION AT THE TIME OF THE KIDNAPPING AND HAS A FULL DESCRIPTION OF HIS TRAVELS ABROAD SINCE 1972, OBVIOUSLY TAKEN FROM NIEHOUS' PASSPORT.

4. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENTS, MINISTER OF INTERIOR OCTAVIO LEPAGE CALLED CARACAS OFFICIALS OF O-I TO HIS OFFICE AND ASKED THEM TO VERIFY A REPORT THAT O-I TOLEDO HAD OBTAINED A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM A NEW YORK BANK. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE WITH O-I'S PUBLISHED COUNTER-OFFER TO THE KIDNAPPERS AND REQUESTED THAT FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS OF THIS TYPE BE CLEARED WITH THE GOV. THIS MORNING, MRS. NIEHOUS TAPED A TV INTERVIEW WITH CHANNEL FOUR. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN THE PROPOSED SCRIPT, WE

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HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE BROADCAST. WE UNDERSTAND FROM A LOCAL JOURNALIST HIRED BY O-I TO ASSIST IN PUBLIC RELATIONS, THAT MRS. NIEHOUS WILL ASK THAT THE GOV PERMIT THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE KIDNAPPERS.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO STATE 080099, THE DEPARTMENT CAN REST ASSURED THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY INITIATIVE IN THIS CASE WITHOUT APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA03845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0672
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604101/aaaadion.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, VE, US, OWENS-ILLINOIS, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006